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FARM BUSINESS FACTS

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A report by E. J. Rowell of the Agricultural Marketing Service, given during the Department's portion of the National Farm and Home Hour, September 16, 1941, over stations associated with the NBC Blue network. U. S. Department of Agriculture

--ooOoo--

KADDERLY:

Among the recent reports issued by the Department's Marketing Service are those which tell of supplies of foodstuffs in cold storage, the number of chicks hatched during August, and the farm labor situation. E. J. Rowell will give us some of the facts contained in these reports. Mike, let's start with the cold storage report. How does it show up as compared with a year ago?

ROWELL:

More perishable foods of all kinds except shell eggs were in storage on September 1 this year than a year ago -- 27 percent more frozen poultry -- nearly 7 percent more frozen vegetables. Stocks of all kinds of cheese totaled 185 million pounds -- that's an increase of 25 million pounds over a year ago. There were more than 85 million pounds of frozen poultry -- that's an increase of 3 million pounds over last year.

And compared with the average of the last 5 years, we have more than half again as much frozen fruit -- a third more butter -- two-fifths more cheese -- nearly a third more poultry -- nearly three-fifths more beef -- and nearly twice as much lard.

KADDERLY:

This certainly shows a substantial increase over a year ago. Usually we do not report each month on the number of chicks hatched after July 1, but this year Secretary Wickard urged farmers to raise more chicks -- to get more eggs next year -- so, tell us whether or not more chicks were hatched during August -- more as compared with August of last year, I mean.

ROWELL:

The answer is yes. More chicks were hatched last month than ever before during August. The estimate is nearly 21 million. That's two-thirds more than in August of last year. During the past 8 months of this year, over 962 million chicks were hatched in our commercial hatcheries. That's an increase of 25 percent over last year.

KADDERLY:

Twenty-five percent more chicks than last year should be a big help in getting for us the 25 percent increase in egg production which the Secretary has set as the goal for 1942 compared with 1940. Now let's have a brief statement on farm labor.

ROWELL:

Well, as usual in most sections of the country, there were fewer farm laborers employed on the farm on September 1 than a month ago.

KADDERLY:

The usual seasonal decline would account for some of that -- because a lot of the harvesting is out of the way for another year.

ROWELL:

Yes -- and as I indicated -- fewer farm laborers were available in many areas. However, in the Cotton Belt, they were picking cotton and hired more help than usual. So, actually, in the nation as a whole more farm laborers were at work on September first than a month ago. The total number of employees on farms September 1 was a little over 11 million.

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